



State of Utah
Department of Commerce
Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing

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Governor

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Executive Director

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March 25, 2004

To All Health Care Assistant Applicants:

On March 22, 2004, Gov. Olene S. Walker signed into law revisions to Utah's Nurse Practice Act (Title 58-31b). One of those revisions directly affects the registration of Health Care Assistants. With the passage of the new law, an unlicensed individual who works in a health care facility regulated by the Department of Health or the Department of Human Services is no longer required to be registered as a Health Care Assistant with the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL).

The only individuals who must be registered as Health Care Assistants are those who provide care to patients in a home setting, where the patient cannot self-direct his/her own care. This does not include an individual who works for a home health agency, because that person must be certified as a nursing assistant by the Department of Health.

Therefore, if you are employed to work in a regulated facility, the law no longer requires you to be registered as a Health Care Assistant. If you don't need to be registered, given this new change in the law, you may withdraw your application immediately.

However, if you have been hired to care for a patient in a home setting, and the patient is unable to direct his/her own care, then you will need to be registered by DOPL as a Health Care Assistant. The Health Care Assistant registration expires November 30 of every even-year, and it must be renewed every two years.

If you have specific questions regarding this change in the law, you are welcome to contact the Division at 801-530-6628 or 866-275-3675 (toll-free in Utah).

Sincerely,

Laura Poe, RN, MS
Executive Director, Board of Nursing
Assistant Director, DOPL